



*Genealogical and Family History
of the State of Vermont*

GENEALOGICAL AND FAMILY HISTORY
OF THE
STATE OF VERMONT



A RECORD OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HER PEOPLE IN THE
MAKING OF A COMMONWEALTH AND THE
FOUNDING OF A NATION

COMPILED UNDER THE EDITORIAL
SUPERVISION OF

HON. HIRAM CARLETON
OF MONTPELIER

VOL. II

"Knowledge of kindred and the genealogies of the ancient families deserveth the highest praise. Herein consisteth a part of the knowledge of a man's own self. It is a great spur to virtue to look back on the worth of our line."—LORD BACON.

"There is no heroic poem in the world but is at the bottom the life of a man."—SIR WALTER SCOTT.

I L L U S T R A T E D

NEW YORK CHICAGO
THE LEWIS PUBLISHING COMPANY

1903

ence A. Wing, and they have one child, Joseph Wing Blakely, born December 9, 1885, and now a student at the Montpelier high school.

(9) Franklin Blakely, born June 2, 1839, married Adelaide V. Cook, and settled on the homestead. In about the year 1870 he converted the old original dwelling house, with some additions, into a cheese factory, and from that time has conducted a large and flourishing business in that line in connection with his farming. He has had two children, both of whom are dead, one dying in infancy.

JOHN ABNER MEAD, M. D.

Dr. John Abner Mead, of Rutland, during a long and active career prominent in public life and in important commercial and financial affairs, is of ancient and honorable English descent, and a monument in Westminster Abbey commemorates the fame of one of his ancestors, **Richard Mead, who was physician to George II and Queen Anne.**

The founder of the American branch of the family came from England about 1642, and from him descended a noble array of talented and useful men. Colonel Richard K. Mead was an aide-camp to General Washington from 1777 to 1783, was his personal attendant in all his principal campaigns and battles, and was in command at the execution of Major Andre. Of the same family were the Right Rev. William Mead, Protestant Episcopal bishop of Virginia, and Richard W. Mead, born in Pennsylvania, and who is credited with being the first importer of Merino sheep into the United States.

The paternal great-grandfather of John Abner Mead was James Mead, born in Greenwich, Connecticut, August 25, 1730. He was the first white man to settle in Rutland township, Vermont, whither he came in 1763. He bought of Nathan Stone, of Windsor, seven thousand acres of land, about one-fourth of the whole township, paying \$333.33 in horses. On the same day he sold three thousand five hundred acres of the land to Charles Button, of Clarendon. John Mead built a log house about half a mile west of Center Rutland, near the bank of Timmouth river, the first house built in the township of Rutland. During the winter he returned for his family, consisting of a

wife (Mercy Holmes), eleven children and a son-in-law, returning with them in March of the following spring. Owing to a poorly selected location, the log house proved untenable, and the family were forced to take shelter in the wigwam of a friendly Indian. In the light of subsequent events, the selection of land reserved for himself proved extremely wise, and James Mead became the most important man of his day. He was the moderator of the first town meeting, the first selectman of the town, the first representative from Rutland to the first legislature, and was the father of the first white child born in the valley. He was one of the first Congregationalists in his region, and he organized the first church there of that denomination.

James Mead was among the most active of the Vermont patriots of his day. He was a member of the Dorset Convention of September 25, 1776, and of the committee appointed by the Windsor convention in June, 1777, to arrange with the commander of Fort Ticonderoga for the frontier defence. He was also colonel of the Third Regiment of Vermont Militia, and the Vermont payrolls contain the record of a payment to Colonel James Mead's militia for their tours to Ticonderoga in 1777. The state records for the same year show that "Colonel Mead's regiment rendered efficient service in scouting after Tories at sundry times, and also in guarding such as were taken, supposed to be enemies," etc. In 1779 Colonel Mead was engaged in guarding the frontiers, showing that not only upon the field of battle, but also in dealing with a wily foe in ambush, he was a living illustration of the watchword of his ancestors, "Semper Paratus."

Colonel Mead died in 1804, and his widow remained faithful to his memory until her death, May 1, 1823, at the venerable age of ninety-two years. The remains of the pair, husband and wife, now rest in Evergreen cemetery, in the family plot of Dr. John A. Mead, whither they were removed from the old Congregational burying ground in West Rutland.

Abner, son of James Mead, married Amelia, daughter of the Rev. Benajah Roots. Mr. Roots was a graduate of Princeton College, and was the first settled pastor over the Congregational church, organized in 1773, and the only settled minister of the denomination in the entire region

between Massachusetts and Canada and the Hudson and Connecticut rivers. At his home occurred the death of the Rev. William Emerson, of Concord, Massachusetts, who was a chaplain in the continental army under General Gates, and was the grandfather of Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Roswell Rowley Mead, son of Abner Mead, was born in West Rutland, in a hotel conducted by his father. He followed mercantile pursuits from 1850 until his death, in January, 1875. He married **Lydia Ann**, daughter of **Eli Gorham**, of **Rutland, Vermont, October 29, 1839**, and their only child was **John Abner Mead**.

On the maternal side **John Abner Mead inherited some of the "bluest blood" in this country**, and can trace his ancestry back to four of the original Mayflower colony. **One of these ancestors was the Mayflower pilgrim John Howland**, of whom history tells us that "in the face of savage foe, or savage beast, or peril by land or sea, was never known less than the foremost." When an expedition was planned for exploring a place for the colony to locate, John Howland asked eagerly to be one of the ten chosen for this purpose. "A strong arm, a stout heart and a ready wit," replied Governor Carver, looking at him kindly, "and gladly do I number thee of the company." As this little band approached the shore of Plymouth, "See! there are cleared fields and a river full of fish and all things ready to our hand," cried Howland excitedly. "Bring her up to the beach then, and we will land and explore," replied Carver, smiling at the young man's enthusiasm. "There is a rock a few rods ahead, set ready for a stepping stone," announced Howland, standing in the bows, and in a moment the bows of the shallop caressingly touched the cheek of that great gray Rock, itself a pilgrim, as has been well said, from some far northern shore, brought by the vast forces of Nature, and laid to wait in grand patience, until the ages should bring it a name, a use, and a Nation's love and honor. "Jump then, lad!" cried one of their number and Howland, leaping lightly from the boat to the rock, cried in his blithe voice, "I seize this mainland for King James." Thus he was the first of the Mayflower pilgrims who stepped on Plymouth Rock, when, later on, the signers of the original compact on board the Mayflower gathered for the purpose of organizing the colony, seated beside the Governor

was John Howland, his secretary and right hand man, ready to take minutes of the proceedings of the meeting and open the town records of Plymouth, consequently he was the first town clerk of Plymouth.

On Lammas Day (August 1), 1622, **John Howland** married **Elizabeth Tilley**, also of the Mayflower company. At the same time and place, John Alden was married to "Priscilla," Governor Bradford to Alice Southworth, and John Winslow to Mary Chilton, a bevy of four fair brides. They stood under a canopy upon the village green for the ceremony, and one can imagine it was a gala day for good old Plymouth. Upon a little table beside Elder Brewster was laid the colony's first record book, brought by the Anne, and now to be used for the first time for the inscription of these marriages, all previous records having been kept in the Governor's note book, and alas! lost to posterity. **Desire**, daughter of **John Howland**, married **Captain John Gorham**, who was killed in one of the Indian wars with King Phillip. The Gorham family belonged to the nobility, as their genealogical tree bears evidence, and pictures of the baronial castle occupied by the family in France. This Chateau de Gorham is located in northern France, province of Maine, twelve miles from the city of Mayenne, and was built about the year 1100. Here, it is said by excellent authority, Henry II of England, found a retreat from the world after his murder of the learned Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas a Becket. **Dr. Mead is able to trace the line away back to the time when William the Conqueror made his excursion to France in 1051 down to his mother Lydia, the daughter of Eli Gorham, of Rutland.**

John Abner Mead was born in Fairhaven, Vermont, April 20, 1841. He began his education in the common schools of West Rutland, prepared for college in the old Franklin Academy at Malone, New York, and during his two years' course boarded with an uncle, performing labor upon the place in payment of his board. In the last of these years he earned sufficient by teaching school to defray all his expenses. He entered Middlebury College in 1860. The next year began the struggle for the preservation of the national Union against the bitter and determined attacks of the pro-slavery secessionists. Mr. Mead stood high in his class, but, patriotically re-

sponsive to the call of the great war president, he and twenty-five of his classmates joined various Union regiments, he enlisting in Company K, Twelfth Vermont Volunteer Regiment, which was mustered into the United States service for a period of nine months. It was soon called upon to participate in several skirmishes, and was held in reserve at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. At Gettysburg it formed a part of the corps of General Reynolds, and performed a thirty-mile night march to Westminster, immediately after the battle. After serving for nearly a year, his regiment was mustered out, in the latter part of July, 1863. Mr. Mead then returned to college, and, although he had lost his relative scholastic standing, was graduated with his old class—that of 1864. He then began a course of medical study under Professor Perkins, of Castleton, Vermont, and after two years entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York city, from which he was graduated in 1868, and was at once appointed house physician in the Kings County Hospital. Two years later he returned to Rutland, where he engaged in a practice which he continued with marked success, building up a practice as extensive as that of any physician in the state. Some of his achievements were extremely interesting from a professional viewpoint. In 1872, in association with Dr. Allen, he made a postmortem examination which established the physical identity of a Mrs. Fries, who had been murdered, and her body subjected to the flames and partially destroyed. As a consequence, the man accused of the crime was convicted. The entire case, including its medical aspects, attracted much attention at the time. In 1888 he relinquished his medical practice in order to devote his entire attention to his business interests, which had become important and exacting. Meantime he had received signal recognition of his high professional abilities. He was appointed medical director of the Vermont state encampment. He had served as surgeon general of the state Grand Army of the Republic, in 1890, with the rank of brigadier general, on the staff of Governor Proctor (former secretary of war, now United States senator), as medical superintendent of the house of correction, as a member of the board of pension examiners for eight years, and he had been tendered

à chair in the medical department of the University of Vermont. He is also a trustee in Middlebury College, his alma mater.

It is, however, for his great and useful activity in commercial and financial lines that General Mead is most widely known. In 1881 he aided in the organization of the Vermont Association, which has become one of the largest institutions of its class in the United States, and was chosen medical examiner and director. In the same year he was one of the organizers of the State Trust Company, and was elected vice president, and, at a later day, president. In 1888 he reorganized the Howe Scale Company, of which he became president, and the phenomenal success of that corporation is attributable in large degree to his energetic and sagacious management. He has also been connected with various other large corporations: the old National Bank of Rutland, as director and cashier; the Rutland Railroad, as treasurer; the Addison Railroad, as treasurer and director; the Clement National Bank, as director; the State Trust Company, as president; the Baxter National Bank, as vice president and director; the New England Fire Insurance Company, as president; and the John A. Mead Manufacturing Company, as president. The latter named corporation is one of the most important of all. Following the war with Spain, it afforded to the national government service of conspicuous usefulness.

During that brief struggle experience demonstrated the necessity for larger coal supply stations for naval use, and in 1901 the bureau of equipment of the United States navy invited bids for a coaling station at Frenchman's Bay, on the coast of Maine. None of the designs submitted covered the requirements. Bids were then asked for on the competitive plan to incorporate the bidders' ideas, with the result that the plans prepared by the John A. Mead Manufacturing Company, in connection with the general contractor's, were found to be the best, and the contract was awarded accordingly. This plant consists of a main pier with two movable unloading towers, an approach pier, and a storage building. The main pier is four hundred feet long; the approach pier three hundred and five feet long, and the building, which holds ten thousand tons, has a length of three hundred and eighty feet. There

the first Congregational church of Rutland, and has been for many years chairman of its executive committee, and is vice president of the Congregational Club of Western Vermont. He is a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and was a staff officer for General Alger and General Mezey when they were commanders in chief of the order.

Dr. Mead was married October 30, 1872, to Miss Mary L. (daughter of Hon. William Northrup and Mary H. Bliss) Sherman. The Sherman family was one of distinction in England. Sir Henry Sherman was one of the executors of the will of Lord Stanley, Earl of Derby, under an instrument executed May 23, 1521. William Sherman purchased Knightston in the time of Henry VIII, and a monument to his memory was erected in St. Mary's, Ottery, in 1542. Of the same family with Nathaniel Sherman, father of William M. Sherman, were the Civil war hero, General William T. Sherman, and his brother, General John T. Sherman, the distinguished senator and statesman, and afterwards secretary of state under President McKinley. From the same ancestors came Senator Hoar, of Massachusetts, probably the most heroic figure of to-day in the nation, and of legislation; Hon. William M. Evans, the accomplished lawyer and statesman; Hon. Chauncey Depew, and many others prominent in public affairs.

Dr. Mead's work is extensive and varied, and his influence is felt in many ways. In 1882, he received the largest single real estate transaction known in the history of Rutland. In order to be able to do this transaction, he had to sell out of Vermont his interest, more largely into the hands of the commercial life of the state than has Dr. Mead. In fact, there is one whose achievements in these lines will at all compare with his own, and his name is a synonym for all that marks the accomplished and resourceful man of large affairs. It only remains to be noted that in all his great success he has owed nothing to advantageous circumstance, but has built up a fortune and name through his native ability and force of character.

A Republican in politics, Dr. Mead has ever been an influential factor in public affairs. In 1805 he was elected to the state senate by a large majority, and he served upon various important committees in that body. He was active in securing a city charter for Rutland, and was the first mayor elected thereunder. In 1803 he was appointed by Governor Fuller a commissioner to the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, and in 1805 Governor Woodbury appointed him a commissioner to the Mexican National Exposition of Industries and Fine Arts. He is a member

of the first Congregational church of Rutland, and has been for many years chairman of its executive committee, and is vice president of the Congregational Club of Western Vermont. He is a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and was a staff officer for General Alger and General Mezey when they were commanders in chief of the order.

Dr. Mead was married October 30, 1872, to Miss Mary L. (daughter of Hon. William Northrup and Mary H. Bliss) Sherman. The Sherman family was one of distinction in England. Sir Henry Sherman was one of the executors of the will of Lord Stanley, Earl of Derby, under an instrument executed May 23, 1521. William Sherman purchased Knightston in the time of Henry VIII, and a monument to his memory was erected in St. Mary's, Ottery, in 1542. Of the same family with Nathaniel Sherman, father of William M. Sherman, were the Civil war hero, General William T. Sherman, and his brother, General John T. Sherman, the distinguished senator and statesman, and afterwards secretary of state under President McKinley. From the same ancestors came Senator Hoar, of Massachusetts, probably the most heroic figure of to-day in the nation, and of legislation; Hon. William M. Evans, the accomplished lawyer and statesman; Hon. Chauncey Depew, and many others prominent in public affairs.

Dr. Mead's work is extensive and varied, and his influence is felt in many ways. In 1882, he received the largest single real estate transaction known in the history of Rutland. In order to be able to do this transaction, he had to sell out of Vermont his interest, more largely into the hands of the commercial life of the state than has Dr. Mead. In fact, there is one whose achievements in these lines will at all compare with his own, and his name is a synonym for all that marks the accomplished and resourceful man of large affairs. It only remains to be noted that in all his great success he has owed nothing to advantageous circumstance, but has built up a fortune and name through his native ability and force of character.

A Republican in politics, Dr. Mead has ever been an influential factor in public affairs. In 1805 he was elected to the state senate by a large majority, and he served upon various important committees in that body. He was active in securing a city charter for Rutland, and was the first mayor elected thereunder. In 1803 he was appointed by Governor Fuller a commissioner to the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, and in 1805 Governor Woodbury appointed him a commissioner to the Mexican National Exposition of Industries and Fine Arts. He is a member

away after a severely painful illness. His widow subsequently presented to the village of Greenwich a fine town clock as a memorial of her husband and a book of his life has been published.

Thomas Bliss, who was born October 26, 1742, was one of the ancestors of Mrs. John A. Mead. He was sergeant in Captain Chapin's company, Colonel Woodbridge's regiment, in Gate's Continental northern army, in 1777. He was a descendant of Thomas Bliss, who was compelled to leave England on account of religious persecutions, and embarked with his family at Plymouth, for the wilderness of America, in 1635, and whose father was Thomas Bliss, a wealthy landowner and a staunch Puritan of Devonshire, England, born in 1550.

Judge John Holbrook (great-grandfather of Mrs. Mead), of Abington, Connecticut, led the patriot troops while they were on their way to Boston to engage in the battle of Bunker Hill. The elm tree under the shade of which the citizen soldiers ate their food, became historic, and still guards the old Holbrook mansion as it did more than a century and a quarter ago.

Mrs. John A. Mead is a member of the Colonial Dames, through her lineal descent from Hon. Phillip Sherman, who was a commissioner of boundaries, state recorder, member of assembly many terms and a noted man of affairs in the colonial period of Rhode Island. Upon her mother's side Mrs. Mead belongs to the Choate family, and has in her possession an immense pewter platter (the silver of olden times) with the coat of arms and "R. C." (Rebecca Choate) engraven thereon. Hon. Rufus Choate, the distinguished jurist, and Hon. Joseph H. Choate, the present American ambassador at the court of St. James, are relatives. Mrs. Mead says, "I am sure we are not proud to be the descendants of Henry VIII, but such we know is a fact." Mrs. Mead was president of the auxiliary to the Rutland Young Men's Christian Association for seven years, is ex-president of the Progressive Shakespeare Club, is a member of The Fortnightly, a church organization, and has written many papers for it and served on its committees. She is treasurer of the Ladies' Aid Association of the Rutland City Hospital, and is also a member of the Oread Association, com-

posed of the alumni of the Oread Collegiate Institute, located at Worcester, Massachusetts.

Dr. and Mrs. Mead are the parents of one child, a daughter, Mary Sherman, born October 12, 1878, in Rutland, Vermont. She was educated at the Ogontz school for young ladies, near Philadelphia, and at Miss Anne Brown's school on Fifth avenue, New York city. She has been for several years secretary and treasurer of the Progressive Shakespeare Club, and chairman of the membership committee of the auxiliary to the Young Men's Christian Association and a member of the Fortnightly Club. She was one of the charter members of the Mercy Holmes Mead Chapter of the Society of the Children of the American Revolution, and its name is that of her ancestress. She is also a member of the Ann Story Chapter, Daughters of American Revolution. She was married, June 25, 1902, to Carl Bingham Hinsman, vice president of the Howe Scale Company, and director in the Borden & Selleck Company, Chicago. Mr. Hinsman represented ward nine of the city of Rutland as alderman on the municipal board in 1901 and 1902, the latter year being unanimously elected president by the council.

EDGAR ALONZO CUMMINGS.

Edgar Alonzo Cummings is a descendant of the well known and honored Cummings family, who claim to be among the earliest settlers of New England, and the ancestral history appears in part in the sketch of A. O. Cummins, which appears in this work.

Isaac Cummings (1), the progenitor of the American branch of the family, was probably born in England in 1601, and after emigrating to this country settled in Salem, Massachusetts, where he died in 1677. His children were John, born in 1630, Isaac, Jr., Elizabeth and Ann Cummings.

Isaac Cummings, Jr. (2), son of Isaac Cummings, was born in 1633. He was united in marriage, November 27, 1659, to Miss Mary Andrews, and ten children were born to them; the three eldest died in infancy, and the names of the others are: Isaac, born September 15, 1664; John, born June 7, 1666; Thomas, born June 27, 1670; Mary, born February 16, 1671; Rebecca,